

REMARKS

Since submitting the initial preliminary amendment and the Prior Art Statement, applicants have become aware of European Patent No. EP 1,174,599, a copy of which is being submitted simultaneously herewith in a second Prior Art Statement. The above requested amendments to claims 17 and 31 are intended to more clearly define applicants' invention over this reference and the prior art previously cited. The requested amendments to claims 18-30 and 32-36 are editorial in nature and do not alter the scope of these claims.

All of the claims now require the delivery to be effected inside the oxidation catalytic converter whereby the reducing agent can reach the exhaust gas stream via a recess or a drilled-out opening, without coming into contact with the oxidation catalytic converter. Support for this language may be found at paragraph [0008] of the specification.

EP 1,174,599 describes a filter assembly with catalyst foils placed in it, in which one group of the foils has an oxidation catalytic effect, and another group of the foils has a nitrogen oxide-reducing effect. Both types of catalyst foils are acted upon by metering means (see Fig. 4 of this reference).

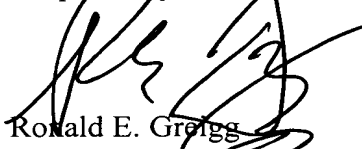
By comparison, the amended claims recite an exhaust gas cleaning system and a method for cleaning exhaust gases, in which the apparatus for selective catalytic reduction is acted upon by a reducing agent, which is introduced into the exhaust gas stream via an upstream oxidation catalytic converter, and the delivery device used for this purpose has a recess or a drilled-out opening in the oxidation catalytic converter. The amended claims are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Appl. No. 10/527,584
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Supplemental Preliminary Amendment

The prior art does not suggest the concept of providing a recess or a drilled-out opening as a component of a delivery device in an oxidation catalytic converter. This has the advantage that the reducing agent need not come into contact with the oxidation catalytic converter, and unwanted oxidation leading to molecular nitrogen, nitrogen dioxide or nitrogen monoxide can be avoided. In EP 1,174,599, conversely it is specifically intended to subject both the oxidation catalytic converter foils and the nitrogen oxide-reducing foils to a metering means. This reference therefore leads away from the subject of the claimed invention. The subject matter defined by the amended claims is thus not obvious, is based on an inventive step, and is therefore patentable.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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